

# **Montgomery County RACES**

## **Amateur Radio Supports Emergency Communications**

### **What is RACES?**

The Montgomery County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service or RACES is an organization of licensed amateur radio operators who volunteer their time, expertise and equipment to supplement radio communications for state and local governments in times of emergency.

Applicants appointed to the Montgomery County RACES must meet and comply with Federal Communications Commission and Montgomery County Government rules, regulations and requirements.

### **What does RACES do?**

Montgomery County RACES operates under the authority of the Montgomery County Homeland Security Department and its Office of Emergency Management.

Traditional RACES operations involve emergency message handling on Amateur Radio Service frequencies. These operations typically involve messages between state and local government emergency communications centers and any other locations where communications is needed.

### **How can I become a RACES volunteer?**

You must:

- Be 18 years of age or older;
- Possess a current and valid FCC Amateur Radio License;
- Own equipment appropriate for RACES operations;\*
- Complete, sign and return the Volunteer Registration, Volunteer Confidentiality and Risk forms;
- Complete training as required;
- Pass a background investigation;
- Participate in drills, exercises, activations and other activities as required; and,
- Live in or be able to respond to activations in Montgomery County

\*Members should have at least one radio transceiver with capabilities appropriate to their class of Amateur License. Most also have the base-, mobile-, or portable antennas that match their radios, and also have batteries or other stand-by power sources to keep their equipment operating and on the air without commercial power.

**Mailing Address: The Office of Emergency Management, P.O. Box 4117,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20885-4117**

